

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a flexible slender insertion section inserted from its distal end into a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section being constructed from a distal portion for picking up an observation image, a bendable portion to be bent, and a slender flexible tube portion, which are coupled, and having a proximal portion on an opposite side of a distal portion of the flexible tube portion; and

an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section having a grip portion gripped by an operator, a bending operation portion which bends the bendable portion, and a display portion formed of a display panel which displays the observation image provided on a frame integrally attached to the grip portion,

wherein the insertion section has a channel provided so that a treatment instrument extends out from a distal open end provided on the distal portion, and wherein a proximal open end for inserting the treatment instrument into the channel is provided ~~[[on]]~~ at a bottom of a grip end of the grip portion.

22. (Previously Presented) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the grip portion has a grip which can be gripped by one hand of the operator.

23. (Currently Amended) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 22, wherein

said grip portion has a casing and a forceps-port constructing member,
and

the forceps-port constructing member is coupled to the proximal open end ~~of the base of~~ said grip end so as to provide a forceps-port.

24. (Previously Presented) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said frame has a connection portion detachable from said grip portion.

25.-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the display portion is detachable from the grip portion.

29. (Canceled)

30. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bending operation portion is structured by a joystick.

31. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bending operation portion is structured by a trackball.

32. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bending operation portion is a trackpad.

33. (Currently Amended) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bending operation portion is structured by a four- ~~and eight~~-directional instruction key.

34. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bending operation portion is structured by an eight directional instruction key.

35. (New) An endoscope apparatus comprising:
a slender insertion section inserted from its distal end into a to-be-inspected space, a distal end side of the insertion section including an observation optical system having a CCD for picking up a to-be-inspected object, a bendable portion to be bent, and a slender flexible tube portion, and a proximal portion on a rear end side of the insertion section being coupled to an operation section; and

an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section having a bendable operation section which bends the bendable portion, a gun-shaped grip portion gripped by an operator provided on a lower portion of the bendable operation section, and a display portion which displays the picked up to-be-inspected image provided on an upper portion of the bendable operation section,

wherein the insertion section has a channel which extends from the distal end portion to the bottom of the grip portion via the proximal portion, and wherein a treatment instrument is inserted into the channel from the insertion opening at the bottom of the grip portion and extends out from an open end on the distal end side.